

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.    An emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network, comprising the steps:

3                upon receiving an incoming emergency message  
4 from an authorized entity at a node serving a subscriber,  
5 invoking a multimedia session engine to launch a call  
6 treatment application for said subscriber;

7                based on at least a portion of parametric  
8 information relating to said incoming emergency message,  
9 querying an emergency notification profile associated  
10 with said subscriber;

11               responsive to said step of querying,  
12 determining by said call treatment application a  
13 particular emergency alert scheme to be provided with  
14 respect to said incoming emergency message; and

15               actuating a subscriber-selectable device for  
16 effectuating said particular emergency alert scheme.

1           2.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said subscriber-selectable device comprises at  
4 least a portion of a multimedia interface operable with  
5 said subscriber's terminal.

1           3.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 further comprising the steps:

4                   determining whether said particular emergency  
5 alert scheme is unavailable for delivery with respect to  
6 said incoming emergency message; and

7                   if so, selecting an alternative emergency alert  
8 scheme to notify said incoming emergency message.

1           4.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 further comprising the steps:

4                   determining whether an override option is  
5 effective against said particular emergency alert scheme  
6 with respect to said incoming emergency message; and

7                   if so, notifying said incoming emergency  
8 message in accordance with said override option.

1           5.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes  
4 an audio transmission mode.

1           6.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes  
4 a video transmission mode.

1           7.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes  
4 an email transmission mode.

1           8.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes  
4 a facsimile transmission mode.

1           9.    The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes  
4 a paging mode.

1           10. The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes  
4 a graphics transmission mode.

1           11. The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based  
4 on emergency type information associated with said  
5 incoming emergency message.

1           12. The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based  
4 on emergency severity information associated with said  
5 incoming emergency message.

1           13. The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based  
4 on said incoming emergency message's originating area.

1           14. The emergency notification method for use in  
2 a multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based  
4 on said authorized entity's identification.

1           15. The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 14,  
3 wherein said authorized entity comprises an authorized  
4 individual.

1           16. The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 14,  
3 wherein said authorized entity comprises an authorized  
4 governmental agency.

1           17. The emergency notification method for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 14,  
3 wherein said authorized entity comprises an authorized  
4 commercial entity.

1           18. A emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network, comprising:

3           means for invoking a multimedia session engine  
4 to launch a call treatment application for a subscriber  
5 with respect to an incoming emergency message initiated  
6 by a message originator;

7           database means operable to store an emergency  
8 notification profile associated with said subscriber;

9           service logic means associated with said call  
10 treatment application for determining a particular  
11 emergency alert scheme to be provided with respect to  
12 said incoming emergency message by interacting with said  
13 database means; and

14          means for actuating a subscriber-selectable  
15 device for effectuating said particular emergency alert  
16 scheme.

1           19. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,  
3 wherein said subscriber-selectable device comprises at  
4 least a portion of a multimedia interface operable with  
5 said subscriber's terminal.

1           20. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,  
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 providing at least one of an audio transmission, a video  
5 transmission, a graphics transmission, a paging  
6 transmission, and an email transmission.

1           21. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,  
3 further comprising means to select an alternative  
4 emergency alert scheme when said particular emergency  
5 alert scheme is unavailable.

1           22. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's home computer for notifying  
5 said incoming emergency message.

1           23. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's office computer for  
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1           24. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's pager for notifying said  
5 incoming emergency message.

1           25. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's mobile phone for notifying  
5 said incoming emergency message.

1           26. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's office phone for notifying  
5 said incoming emergency message.



1           27. The emergency notification system for use in  
2 a multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's home phone for notifying  
5 said incoming emergency message.

1           28. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's personal digital assistant  
5 (PDA) for notifying said incoming emergency message.

1           29. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's television (TV) set for  
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1           30. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's laptop computer for  
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1           31. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,  
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises  
4 activating said subscriber's palmtop computer for  
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1           32. The emergency notification system for use in  
2 a multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,  
3 wherein said message originator includes an authorized  
4 individual.

1           33. The emergency notification system for use in a  
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,  
3 wherein said message originator includes an authorized  
4 entity.

1           34. A computer-accessible medium operable with a  
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-  
3 generation network, said computer-accessible medium  
4 carrying a sequence of instructions which, when executed  
5 by at least one processing entity associated with said  
6 multimedia-capable next-generation network, causes the  
7 following steps to be performed:

8           upon receiving an incoming emergency message  
9 from an authorized entity at a node serving a subscriber,  
10 invoking a multimedia session engine to launch a call  
11 treatment application for said subscriber;

12           based on at least a portion of parametric  
13 information relating to said incoming emergency message,  
14 querying an emergency notification profile associated  
15 with said subscriber;

16           responsive to said step of querying,  
17 determining by said call treatment application a  
18 particular emergency alert scheme to be provided with  
19 respect to said incoming emergency message; and

20           actuating a subscriber-selectable device for  
21 effectuating said particular emergency alert scheme.

1           35. The computer-accessible medium operable with a  
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-  
3 generation network as set forth in claim 34, wherein said  
4 subscriber-selectable device comprises at least a portion  
5 of a multimedia interface operable with said subscriber's  
6 terminal.

1           36. The computer-accessible medium operable with a  
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-  
3 generation network as set forth in claim 34, wherein said  
4 particular emergency alert scheme comprises providing at  
5 least one of an audio transmission, a video transmission,  
6 a graphics transmission, a paging transmission, and an  
7 email transmission.

1           37. The computer-accessible medium operable with a  
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-  
3 generation network as set forth in claim 34, further  
4 comprising another sequence of instructions for selecting  
5 an alternative emergency alert scheme when said  
6 particular emergency alert scheme is unavailable.

1           38. The computer-accessible medium operable with a  
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-  
3 generation network as set forth in claim 37, wherein said  
4 alternative emergency alert scheme comprises activating  
5 at least one of the following devices for notifying said  
6 incoming emergency message based on said emergency  
7 notification profile associated with said subscriber: a  
8 home computer, an office computer, a pager, a mobile  
9 phone, a home phone, an office phone, a personal digital  
10 assistant (PDA), a television (TV) set, a laptop computer  
11 and a palmtop device.